

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CCO-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY PA/MS:PEAUERSWALD/EFROEDER

APPROVED BY PA: WDBLAIR, JR. X20954

AF/P:JMPOPE

S/S-O:AOTTO

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S/PRS, AF/P

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P 252210Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 100418 TOSEC 110117

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGERH. A.)

SUBJECT:BACKGROUND TO WASHINGTON POST STORY, SUNDAY,
APRIL 25. REFTEL:TOSEC 110101

1. WASHPOST STORY "CHANGING FACES OF AFRICA, STATE DEPARTMENT MIXES UP NAMES, PHOTOS" IN TODAY'S EDITION (REFTEL 110101) INACCURATE AND MISLEADING IN AT LEAST ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT.
2. THERE WAS NO "MIX-UP OF BLACK FACES" ON THE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT. ALL AFRICAN LEADERS WERE INDIVIDUALLY AND CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED IN MATERIAL SENT TO PHOTO COMPANY. MISTAKE WAS MADE WHEN SLIDES WERE INCORRECTLY MOUNTED WITH WRONG CAPTIONS BY TECHNICIANS. DEPARTMENT DID ERR IN NOT CHECKING FINISHED PRODUCT BEFORE IT WAS MAILED, BUT IMPLICATION THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONFUSED THE NAMES AND FACES OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS IS FALSE.

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3. FOR BACKGROUND, PA SENDS OCCASIONAL MAILINGS OF SLIDES

TO LOCAL TELEVISION STATION NEWS DIRECTORS WHO HAVE REQUESTED THEM, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REPORT ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY EVENTS BY PROVIDING PICTORIAL SUPPORT. (505 TELEVISION STATIONS CURRENTLY RECEIVE THESE SLIDES).

4. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAILING WAS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP, AND TO THE COUNTRIES AND AFRICAN LEADERS INCLUDED. IN ADDITION TO THE PHOTOS DESCRIBED IN THE STORY, IT INCLUDED MAPS SHOWING THE COUNTRIES AND CITIES THE SECRETARY IS VISITING. EAGLEBURGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, POLITICAL LEADERS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE100418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PEAUERSWALD/EFROEDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760157-0419
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760424/aaaaauei.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACKGROUND TO WASHINGTON POST STORY, SUNDAY, APRIL 25. REFTEL:TOSEC 110101
TAGS: SOPN, XA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006